

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
FEED INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD (FIAB) MEETING  
Fresno, California  
October 4, 2007**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS**

Thomas Geary  
Thomas Daly  
Frederick Frost  
Rob Gilbert  
Richard Hoch  
Michael Koewler  
Thomas Prokop  
Jon Tollenaar  
John Walth

**CDFA**

Nate Dechoretz  
Asif A. Maan  
Kent Kitade  
Mike Davidson  
Natalie Krout  
Nirmal Saini  
Elaine Wong  
Dale Rice  
Frank Delgado  
Chris Hansen  
Irene Gonzalez

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Gene Beach, Almond Hullers  
& Processors

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Thomas Geary called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and a quorum was established.

**INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Self-introductions were made. Mr. Geary thanked everyone for attending.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Geary asked the FIAB to review the minutes from the prior meeting on June 21, 2007. No changes were submitted.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mr. John Walth to approve the June 21, 2007 board meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Rob Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**DIVISION/BRANCH UPDATES**

Inspection Services Division Director Mr. Nate Dechoretz updated the board on the reorganization and centralization of the Department's Information Technology (IT) Unit. This change would require our division IT staff to transfer to the centralized IT Unit. Mr. Dechoretz also informed the board of the two new exotic pest projects: the Brown Apple Moth in the Coastal area and the Mediterranean fruit fly in Dixon, California.

Dr. Asif Maan informed the FIAB of the hiring of new inspectors in San Joaquin County and Southern California, and a Senior Environmental Research Scientist in Sacramento.

Currently, the branch has several vacancies; a Feed Licensing and Livestock Drugs Registration Technician, a Field Inspector position in Bakersfield and a Lab Desk Coordinator.

Dr. Maan informed the board that the re-organization of the branch is on hold, until the Fertilizer Inspection Program strategic planning is completed. However, we are in the process of recruiting a dedicated program supervisor for the Feed and Livestock Drugs Inspection Program as recommended by the board. Dr. Maan also informed the board that the branch is working on a regulation package for setting the feed license fee at \$300 per year for each location. Mr. Kent Kitade is reviewing the existing feed regulations to determine if any additional regulations need to be changed and/or added.

After the board's recommendation and subsequent approval from the CDFA Undersecretary Mr. George Gomes, the tonnage tax has been reduced from \$0.14 to \$0.13. A notice has been sent to all feed licensees informing them of a reduction in tonnage tax effective October 1, 2007. He also mentioned staff changes at the California Grain and Feed Association, including appointment of Mr. Chris Zanobini as the Executive Vice President; Mr. Dennis Albani from California Advocates, as the main lobbyist for the organization; and Mr. Tad Bell who will handle regulatory and governmental issues for the Association.

Dr. Maan explained to the FIAB that there is currently a division initiative underway to review the database and make it user friendly for the staff and industry.

Dr. Maan updated the board in regards to the application of sodium thiocyanate adulterated CAN17 fertilizer to almonds and walnuts groves in San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties. Those affected included four almond growers and one walnut grower with 24 fields totaling 425 acres of almonds and walnuts. Supplier of the adulterated CAN17 has voluntarily decided to purchase all nuts from the affected fields, and destroy it in an approved manner. This action would ensure that affected nuts and hulls would not enter in the feed supply chain.

### **REVENUE STATUS REPORT**

Dr. Maan called the FIAB's attention to Attachment #2, Financial Summary. He noted a beginning balance of \$849,013 as of July 1, 2006, and an ending balance of \$1,445,570 as of June 30, 2007. Dr. Maan commended the FIAB for taking pro-active actions and increasing the tonnage tax, which helped increase the program's revenue and reserves.

### **REGULATORY UPDATE**

Mr. Kitade called attention to Attachment #3 a PowerPoint presentation regarding the AAFCO Feed Safety Program. He stated the importance of the program and how it could help ensure a safe and wholesome supply of milk, meat and eggs. Mr. Kitade also mentioned that without a Feed Safety Program, individual processors would bear the burden of ensuring safety. He suggested the feed industry supports AAFCO's Feed Safety Program.

### **SAFE ANIMAL FEED EDUCATION UPDATE (SAFE)**

Ms. Natalie Krout called the board's attention to Attachment #4, SAFE Program Update. She provided an update of the SAFE Program's completed, ongoing, and upcoming projects. SAFE's completed projects include the Feed Labeling Workshop and the Specialty Crop Tour. SAFE's upcoming projects include the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists meeting on October 25, 2007 and the California Association of Pest Control Advisors meeting on October 28-30, 2007. Ongoing projects include the All Investigators Training on October 15-17, 2007 and the Feed Quality Assurance Audit on October 9-11, 2007.

### **LABORATORY UPDATE**

Mr. Nirmal Saini informed the FIAB that 1,239 samples were tested, an increase in samples over last year. The bulk of the samples were aflatoxins, which have doubled since last year. A bid is out for the ICP machine, and close on October 29, 2007. The lab is also considering hiring two scientific aides to help with processing samples.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Dr. Maan narrated an email from Mr. Zanobini from CGFA stating that there are no specific legislative issues at the moment. Mr. Zanobini assures the board that CGFA will report in the future. Mr. Zanobini further noted that he has been regularly updated by Mr. Bell, and he appreciates the change in the tonnage tax and is looking forward to the next step.

### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS/NEXT MEETING**

The FIAB decided to form a subcommittee whose main purpose would be to research the Texas Taxation Model for its potential use in California. Goals of the sub-committee include broadening revenue streams. Volunteers for the subcommittee include Mr. Thomas Geary, Mr. Jon Tollenaar, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Richard Hoch, Mr. Kitade and Mr. Mike Davidson.

Beginning early next year, all upcoming FIAB vacancies will be advertised. Mr. Michael Koewler, Mr. Jon Tollenaar, and Mr. Geary expressed interest in serving another term on the FIAB.

The next board meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2008. Location and time will be determined at a later date.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mr. Koewler to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rob Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Asif A. Maan, Ph.D., Branch Chief  
Feed, Fertilizer, Livestock Drugs and Egg Regulatory Services  
Inspection Services

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Date

AAM/dr